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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry
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9 August 1983

The Honorable Barry Goldwater
Chairman, Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Barry,

I have your letter of August 3, 1983, and am sorry that you don't share with me the merits of having the principle line organization in the United States Government responsible for the hostile intelligence threat here in the States act as Chairman of the new Counterintelligence Committee.

For years now the Intelligence Community has worked very hard in bringing the FBI into the fold, and I must say that I am gratified in the progress that the Bureau has made in assuming its rightful role within the Intelligence Community. Who better to discuss the hostile threat, and what is more important than that threat here in the United States? We are also anxious to bring analysis associated with that threat to bear on the problem here in the States. Having the FBI chair the interagency committee, which will funnel the experiences, assessments and analysis throughout the Community to that forum, will ensure that the Bureau has the best counterintelligence information which the Community can offer.

I don't share the view that would suggest that a staff organization that is off-line and not involved in the process itself carry that burden. I will look to the Commission, which we have established, to provide me with the overall guidance and assessment of how the Committee and, for that matter, the Intelligence Community, is doing on the counterintelligence issue.

The key purpose in forming the Committee is to ensure a free flowing exchange within the line organizations of the Intelligence Community on counterintelligence assessments, analysis, techniques and experiences. Having line organizations involved on a Committee reporting directly to me will bring proper attention to that purpose.

I am confident the new Committee, under the chairmanship of the FBI, will make the United States a safer place from a counterintelligence standpoint.

Sincerely,

William J. Casey

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